Emily Gray

I don’t have a lot of rules that my parents set for me, but the ones that they have I think are reasonable and fair.

I think one of the big rules that my parents have for me is that I’m not allowed to date unless there is a view of marriage. This isn’t just my rule, but Molly’s as well and Noah’s. This rule actually applied to everyone in my family when they were younger too. I don’t really think that this is a bad rule. I kind of agree with it. If you think about it kids today are constantly dating and breaking up with people. People are constantly getting hurt and other people don’t care. I think I am too young to date anyway. I hardly understand my own feelings never the less opening them up to someone else like that.

Another rule that my parents have is curfew. This is a rule that is really flexible. When my mom was younger her and her sister had a strict curfew and if they were late, they got in trouble and couldn’t go out the next time they wanted to do something. I think that’s one of the reasons my mom is so easy-going about my curfew. If it’s a school night, I have to be in bed around 9:30 to 10. If I stay up later than that, which I usually don’t because I know I’m gonna regret it the next morning, I just get told that I have to go to bed. My parents know that I don’t stay up really late unless I’m doing something with friends or watching a movie or something, so it’s not that big a deal. When it’s not a school night and I am out of the house, my parents like me to be home by 10, but if I know that I am gonna be home later, I have to call them and let them know. If I don’t, this is where I usually get in trouble. My dad gets really worried, more than my mom does. I get yelled at or maybe talked to, but I understand. My parents just want to know I’m safe.

Last, I have to clean my bed room and bathroom every Monday. My mom cleans the house every Monday and I have to clean too. This is like real cleaning too. It’s not just picking stuff up; its dusting, doing the floors, vacuuming and stuff like that. It’s not hard; I just don’t like doing it. Sometimes I procrastinate and put it off later at night or do it the next day. I get yelled at if I do that. If I don’t clean, and my mom keeps having to tell me to, I get grounded. This rule isn’t that flexible but it’s not set in stone either. Sometimes my mom cleans my bathroom for me as a surprise when I get home, or sometimes she lets me do it the next day or skip it if I have a lot of stuff I have to do. It’s not that bad. Other small chores I have are unloading the dishwasher and feeding the dog, although I don’t always unload the dishwasher and I get yelled at.

Even though I don’t have a lot of rules, the ones my parents set are reasonable. I know they just want to keep me safe and prepare me for when I’m older and I have a house and family of my own. Like any other teenager sometimes I push boundaries and test limits, but I never really break the rules. I know that would hurt my parents and my family. My whole family is really close, and we all live next to each other. I have a big family and we have a good relationship with each other, better than what most kids have with their parents and families today. For that I’m thankful.